

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 414

By Raper

A RESOLUTION to honor Tom Rowland, former mayor of Cleveland.

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to honor those devoted public servants who made great strides in improving the lives of the citizens they so ably served; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Tom Rowland, who held the post of mayor of Cleveland for twenty-seven years until his retirement in 2018, making him the longest-serving mayor in the city's history; and

WHEREAS, a veteran of the United States Air Force, Mr. Rowland is the only mayor in Tennessee to have served on the Homeland Security Council; he also served as an executive committee member of the Southeast Tennessee Development District, chair of the Metropolitan Planning Operation, member of the Cleveland Utility Board and Cleveland/Bradley Chamber's Economic Development Council, and member of the Industrial Development Board; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Tom Rowland brought tremendous growth and progress to Cleveland, helping establish the Museum & Cultural Center at Five Points and serving as a driving force behind the Cleveland Regional Jetport, the urban public transportation system, the Tree City USA program in Cleveland, and the city's greenway system; and

WHEREAS, he also spearheaded a project to build Tennessee's first memorial to fallen police and fire and rescue personnel—the Emergency Services Memorial, which was dedicated in May of 2000 at Five Points; and

WHEREAS, he, along with his wife, Sandra, founded Cleveland 100 to support local emergency services and the Empty Stocking Fund, which provides clothing and gifts to children in the Cleveland-Bradley area each year; he also served as an advocate of Special Olympics and Cleveland Civitans during his tenure as mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rowland's long list of contributions includes serving for many years as a member of the Keep America Beautiful Board, Emergency Shelter Board, 911 Board, United Way Board, Greenway Board, and Volkswagen Task Force; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded leader throughout the State and nation, Tom Rowland is a past board member and president of the Tennessee Municipal League, Tennessee Risk Management Pool, and Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund and was active with the U.S. Conference of Mayors; he recently retired as vice chair of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and he has the distinction of being the only non-attorney selected to serve on a panel to select the U.S. Magistrate for East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, often duly honored for his public impact, Mr. Rowland was named a Tennessee Mayor of the Year and a Tennessee Community Leader of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in further recognition of his incredible tenure of service, an interchange off of I-75 is named in his honor, as are two fire trucks commissioned by the Cleveland Fire Department, a pavilion at Life Bridges, and the Cleveland High School classroom of the Junior Air Force ROTC; and

WHEREAS, Tom Rowland currently serves as Cleveland's first mayor emeritus, an honor bestowed upon him by the Cleveland City Council and Mayor Kevin Brooks following his retirement; and

WHEREAS, he also continues to actively serve as vice chair of the Cleveland Regional Jetport Authority, treasurer of the Museum Center of Cleveland, and a member of the newly formed 303; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we recognize this esteemed public servant for his many indelible contributions to the city he so selflessly served; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor former mayor Tom Rowland for his nearly three decades of service to the good people of Cleveland, extending our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.